

advanced to General File.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. The Business and Labor Committee heard LB 850 on March 11th of this year, and they also heard LB 851, which were the denied claims for the...against the State of Nebraska, the claims that the State Claims Board had denied. The consensus of the Business and Labor Committee, after the public hearing, was not to approve any of the denied claims, and they killed LB 851, voted to approve LB 850, the approved claims, as presented to us and supported by testimony in the committee hearing for approval to the body of the Legislature. Very briefly, I would state that the total expenditure contained within LB 850 is \$1,511,785.48, of which \$1,488,107.33 are General Fund money; \$20,176, which are agency write-offs of bad debts, uncollectible warrants, that sort of thing; then there is a...one agency, EOC has a write-off of \$255.93 against a federal fund that they maintain. Very briefly, I might highlight several of the major items in 850. There were two claims against the Department of Public Institutions for...as the result of two lawsuits, one of these settlements was in excess of \$332,000, the other one was a little bit over \$290,000. Then there is an \$849,000 plus bill for the publishing of the constitutional amendments last year that went to the Nebraska Press Advertising Service, that is an item that we have to pay at the...after each election. I might indicate that this \$849,000 is substantially higher than the amount that it's been in past years because of the length of the constitutional amendments and ballot issues that we were required to publish. Another major item is the final agreement for settlement of the Omaha Municipal Court changing to the state court system. There was a dispute that's been going on for a number of years on the salary issue. And the center pages, 7, 8, and 9, of LB 850 is a listing of all of the individuals, with a total of \$156,123. Now, with regard to the issue on the Omaha Municipal Court settlement, on April 3rd I received a letter from the Court Administrator of the Supreme Court of Nebraska that having reviewed Section 3 of LB 850, indicates that there might be some errors in that particular section of LB 850. This was not brought out at committee hearing. My office is currently investigating the authenticity of each of these claims, and balancing that against the court administrator's letter. So when we complete that process, we may well have a Select File amendment to LB 850 to address some minor changes on that particular claim. With that in mind then, I would answer or attempt to answer any questions that a member